

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 /090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2039

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 12605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, EEC, CG, BE

SUBJECT: SIMONET-MOBUTU MEETING IN SWITZERLAND

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 11925, (B) BRUSSELS 11879

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET'S ASSISTANT CHEF DE CABINET (ONKELINX) GAVE US A RUNDOWN ON SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING IN SWITZERLAND BETWEEN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND SIMONET, ACCOMPANIED BY CHEF DE CABINET ALFRED CAHEN AND ONKELINX. HE TOLD US THEY MET TWO HOURS WITH MOBUTU IN LAUSANNE AND DISCUSSED BASICALLY TWO ISSUES: NGUZA AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE.

2. ON NGUZA CASE, ONKELINX SAID MOBUTU SAID HE "REGRETTE" PROMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN IN BELGIAN PRESS TO ATTACKS ON ZAIRE AND THE NGUZA  
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TRIAL BY BELGIAN LAWYER JULES WOLF. MOBUTU SAID SUCH ATTACKS WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ZAIRE'S "INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY." ONKELINX SAID SIMONET RESPONDED ESSENTIALLY ALONG THE LINES OF BELGIUM'S REPLY TO THE GOZ NOTE (REFTEL B) AND ASKED MOBUTU TO TRY AND "UNDERSTAND" THE BELGIAN POSITION, NAMELY THAT BELGIAN CITIZENS AND PRESS ENJOYED FREEDOM OF SPEECH UNDER BELGIAN LAW.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF MULTILATERAL AID TO ZAIRE, ONKELINX SAID MOBUTU ASKED SIMONET TO PRESS FORWARD WITH BELGIAN EFFORTS TO COORDINATE MULTILATERAL AID TO ZAIRE (HE SAID MOBUTU STILL CALLS IT A "MARSHALL PLAN" THOUGH BELGIANS HAVE DISCOURAGED THE USE OF THIS TERM AND PREFER "PLAN DE RELANCE ECONOMIQUE."). MOBUTU INTRODUCED TO BELGIANS A M. BIEME, THE GOZ COORDINATOR FOR THE MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (JAENEN) LATER TOLD US THAT BISENGIMANA HAD TURNED DOWN THE COORDINATION SLOT AND THAT BIEME CAME TO BRUSSELS FROM LAUSANNE THIS WEEK TO BEGIN WORKING-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE BELGIAN OFFICIALS.

4. BOTH ONKELINX AND, LATER, JAENEN STRESSED TO US THAT SIMONET MADE CLEAR TO MOBUTU THAT BELGIUM COULD NOT GO IT ALONE AND THAT FUTURE AID TO ZAIRE MUST BE BASED ON "FULL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION" WITH OTHER KEY DONOR COUNTRIES AND WITHIN THE WORLD BANK/IMF FRAMEWORK. JAENEN SAID OTHER "CONDITIONS" WERE THAT MOBUTU GET HIS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL HOUSE BACK IN ORDER AND THAT, SHOULD FOREIGN TECHNICIANS BE AGAIN REQUIRED IN ZAIRE UNDER THIS MULTILATERAL AID PLAN, THEY BE GIVEN THE REQUIRED BACKING BY MOBUTU TO DO THEIR JOBS.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN (AMB. BAEKELANDT), AT HIS SEPTEMBER 21 PRESS BRIEFING ON SIMONET-MOBUTU MEETING, SAID THAT BELGIAN COORDINATION OF MULTILATERAL AID WAS "GOING FORWARD"  
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AND THAT FURTHER BELGIAN AID COMMITMENTS TO ZAIRE ABOVE THOSE ALREADY APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT "WERE LIKELY." ONKELINX TOLD US CANDIDLY THAT IT WAS "TOO EARLY" FOR ANY PROGNOSTICATION OF ADDITIONAL BUDGET ITEMS FOR ZAIRE AND THAT THERE WAS "NOTHING SPECIFIC AT THIS POINT" ABOUT BELGIUM'S COORDINATION ROLE. HE SAID BELGIUM WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE U.S. ON THIS SUBJECT AND SIMONET WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH US SHORTLY IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

6. JAENEN SAID KEY BENCHMARK WOULD BE MOBUTU'S NOVEMBER 24 ANNIVERSARY SPEECH WHEN MOBUTU IS EXPECTED TO UNVEIL ZAIRE'S NEW ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND REITERATE HIS REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE. CHAMBERS

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